

October 2010



Tai helps Jenty with her Gates Scholarship application.

Hoots and Salutes

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as Coordinators for the Cardoner Gates Immersion trips: **Tai Hoang, Roy Brown, Michelle Wang, Nhu Le, Marissa Begay, Adrian Sandoval, and Patrick Lam.**

Congratulations to the following students who were selected for the Eagle Butte Cardoner Gates Immersion

Gates Immersion trips: **Amal Barre, Steele Valenzuela, Liliana Valadez, and Kerri Trujillo.**



trip: **Yashswee KC, Shelagh Hardrich, Margret O'Connor, Jessica Rangel, and Ashley Hauger.**



Congratulations to the following students who were selected for the Rosebud, SD Cardoner Gates Immersion trips: **Caitlin Bordeaux, Jessica Bakhit, Saw Lot, Matt Wilson, Paul Wu, Namrata Sapkota, and Josh Pieper.**



Tai Hoang, Roy Brown, Juan James, Adrian Vega, and Joshua Phelps.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected for the Chinle, AZ and Gallup, NM Cardoner

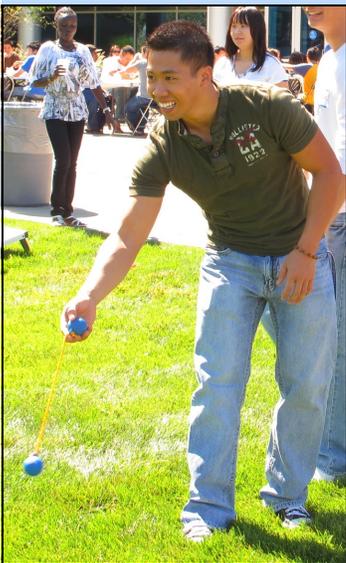


Yashswee with a little horse.





Marissa Begay enjoying herself.



Tai Hoang enjoying the games of skill.



Kerri Trujillo, Adrian Sandoval and Marissa Begay wear many hats!

How frequently will you use SSS?

According to the Card Services scanner last year between August and May we had **8,357 SSS students visit our office.**

In the fall of 2009 we had the heaviest traffic with 66% of our students using the



office in the fall. There are several reasons for the decline in student usage. The scanner was not working for a

period of time in the spring, the scanner was out of order for two months and students maybe have used the SSS resources less in the spring.

Let's shatter the old numbers and take full advantage of what the SSS has to offer.

How is SSS doing? *by Martin Estrada*

SSS consistently rates very high on the annual student evaluations. In fall of 2009 the 172 SSS students completed an evaluation of the SSS program. The results were overwhelmingly positive throughout the evaluation and proved the success of the SSS program with an overall 5 star rating from students.

When it came to academic support students typically came in for assistance for: academic support, tutoring/supplemental instruction, accommodations, personal/financial support, career/graduate counseling, and computer lab usage.

Students reported Academic advising to be very important and were overall satisfied with a top notch 5 star rating. Students were asked to evaluate:

- Registration assistance
- Quality of tutoring with Rich Jehlik, Denise LeClair, and Pat Green
- Quality of supplemental instructions
- Help with financial applications
- Notification of assistance

with scholarships opportunities

- SSS Computer Lab
- SSS Center Study Rooms
- SSS Office Atmosphere, Activities and Services
- RSP 120—Student Success Class
- Cultural Enrichment Programs
- Orientation Meeting
- Midterm Meeting

The results of the evaluation demonstrated that students were generally satisfied with top ranks of 4 and 5 ratings with 98% rating their overall satisfaction with program services as very satisfied (123) or satisfied (45) with 0 dissatisfied.

Students were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with:

- The SSS staff is available
- The SSS staff is helpful
- The SSS staff is friendly
- The SSS staff is helping me improve my grades
- The SSS Program is helping me stay in college and complete my degree
- I would encourage a friend to apply to the SSS project
- The SSS newsletter

provides encouragement and useful information

When asked about the helpfulness of SSS staff 100% strongly agreed (138) or agreed (34) the staff was helpful. When students were asked if the program helps them improve their grades 100% either strongly agreed (88) or agreed (84).

When asked "The SSS Project is helping me stay in college and complete my degree" 98% either strongly agreed (108) or agreed (61).

Khloe Keeler states the, "If it wasn't for the support of the SSS program, I couldn't have been as successful through my first two years at Creighton."

Carmen Chagolla states that, "The SSS staff has become a second family for me, there always there one I need them, and have made me felt very welcome to Creighton."

The ending consensus for the evaluation was the SSS program has greatly benefited the numerous SSS students and is helping students work to become goal oriented, successful, and well educated Creighton graduates.

Faith that does Justice *by Tara One Horn*



Tara One Horn.

Why is it never hard for another person to come to you for help and to cry on your shoulder, yet, when you need the same they are nowhere to be found? Life is full of questions like this that will remain unanswered, or that you ultimately have to answer for yourself.

Although I was raised Catholic and in the church, I've always felt at home with my spirituality through my culture. Now that's not to say I don't pray or praise, I just do so through my language with prayer songs.

I have found acceptance for once in my life with other students at Creighton about my religion, and have never felt more comfortable. I have

witnessed the faith in people who live as though there is no tomorrow. That doesn't mean they take life threatening risks, but I've seen them live in the moment and never miss a chance to lift another person's spirit, and that is ultimately what brought them happiness. That is the light in them that other people see, and the reason that they are truly living for God.

This is not much different than my own culture, where it is known that the leaders are the ones who are concerned with everyone else's well being before their own. This does not mean they neglect their own or do not take care of themselves, but it is their

undeclared duty to help another being before their own person. This I have seen more frequently here with something as subtle as holding the door open for another, and that is what inspires me. Something as small and minute as opening a door for another person causes a ripple effect and helps me to remember that I am here not for myself, or to ensure that I have a better future and life, but to know that I am getting an education to help my people and to be a leader for them.

Always remember that each day is a great day for a race, the Human race.

Pilamaya, (Thank You)



Margret O'Connor, Matt Wilson and Tara One Horn.



Emmanuel Chavez and Emina Becirovic enjoy the Mexican food



Carmen and Adrian celebrate Mexican Independence.



Spotlight on Hanh Nguyen *by Josh Pieper*



Always smiling...that's Hanh.



Smile for the camera!



Hanh with a new friend from the D.R.



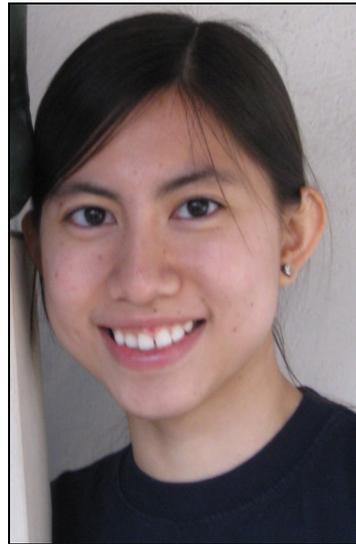
Monica Ibarra and Jessica Rangel showing their Mexican Spirit!

Hanh "Hanna" Nguyen is an outstanding sophomore attending Creighton University.

Born in Vietnam, Hanh comes from a unique family of eight. Five of them are her older sisters and the other two are her younger brothers. Hanh came from Vietnam to the United States when she was only nine. Hanh made the decision to bring her talents to Creighton, just like her older sisters who came here in recent years. It was also convenient for Hanh to stay in the state of Nebraska to continue her studies. Hanh's potential majors include Pre-medical Biochemistry or Anthropology. Hanh hopes that someday she could become a Forensic Pathologist.

Hanh made SSS a home because of the great people and the great benefits that are given to members, she loves the tutors, the couches to take naps, and free-printing. SSS has given Hanh better study habits and supportive friends for motivation.

A major accomplishment Hanh has received is the Magis Award scholarship. Hanh uses her leadership qualities at Creighton through ILAC and the Water Quality Program, Creighton's Youth Sports Program, MAPS, and is a member of the Pre-medical Society. Being accepted into the Creighton University with



scholarships has been Hanh's greatest achievement so far. One goal Hanh has in mind for the future is to learn to play the piano.

Hanh had the most fun ever when she spent 26 days in the Dominican Republic helping people, being exposed to the a different lifestyle, and a great sense of fulfillment. Hanh has gone through an interesting experience at Creighton, when Hanh visited the Dominican Republic, she took part of the Water Quality Program. Hanh also experienced some embarrassing moments when the only Spanish she knew was "Hola" and "Gracias" in her time in the Dominican.

Dr. Gary Michels is Han's favorite professor at Creighton because of how he changed her view on chemistry and strengthening her passion. Dr. Michels has also inspired Han to get out of her own comfort zone to aid others. Some interests that Hanh has is her love for volunteering and watching Asian dramas. Hanh

can listen to just about any music, excluding Rap and country.

In the event Hanh were to win a lottery, she would give some of it to her relatives back in Vietnam, put some into savings for Medical School, and donate the rest to charity. If Hanh were able to use a time machine, she would travel to age 25, because she is indecisive about her future, and would like to see what direction her career is going within the next five to six years.

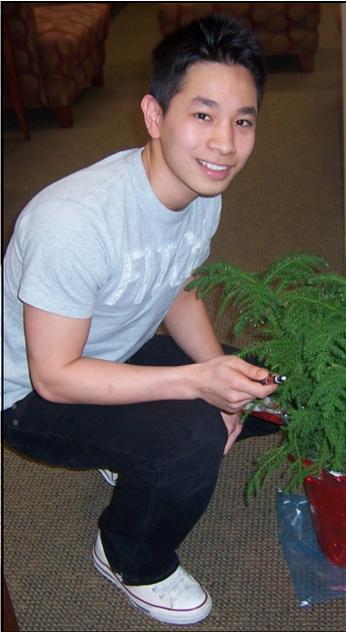
If Hanh could be a superhero with superpowers, she would like to see the future because the present is solid, but the future is not. Hanh would like to use this ability to foresee cancer in an early stage, and to start treatment. Hanh would also like to prevent a fires from burning apartments, prevent suicides, etc.

Hanh's advice to other procrastinators: ***"Procrastination is the grave in which opportunity is buried."*** -Anonymous

Hanh's advice for everyone is: ***"The soul would have no rainbow if the eyes had no tears."*** -Native American Proverb

Hanh says ***"Don't be afraid to take risks, you may become indecisive like I am. They say that as you die, your life flashes before your eyes; make it worth watching."***

Spotlight on Viet Quoc Do *by Martin Estrada*



Viet Do checking out the plant.



Never stops drawing on things or people!



Adrian Vega enjoys his steak.

Viet Quoc Do is a sophomore at Creighton University. Viet is from Thu Duc, Vietnam. Although his major is undecided, he chose to come to Creighton for their Jesuit values and prestigious rankings. Viet is also part of the Creighton family tradition because he has two brothers, Linh and Tai, at Creighton.

Viet joined the SSS program because it is a great program that offers much help. Tutors, computer lab, and the study rooms are a few things that Viet loves about the SSS program. With all the help the SSS program has to offer, Viet is able to maintain good grades.

Viet is involved in playing intramural basketball and ultimate Frisbee. His greatest achievement so far is getting to level eight on 3D ping pong.

Viet sets his goals high as he plans on graduating with his master's degree. His ideal dream job is getting paid for doing what he loves.



Viet says **Dr. Finker** is his favorite professor at Creighton because he learns a lot in his class and he is a great teacher. One unique thing about his family is they all love to play sports and dance. Ping Pong and skateboarding are two things that Viet does outside of school.

Viet loves to listen to gangsta rap because, "That's what's up!" The most fun that Viet has ever had was when he climbed mountains in Estes Park in Colorado.

If Viet won the lottery he would build the ultimate greenhouse. I would build the ultimate green house so I can have my own "runaway" spot. I can get

away from the stresses of everyday life and just sit there and relax. also watching the growth and development of the trees by trying to replicate elements of nature is pretty interesting

If he was given a time machine he would go back to California in 1969 to go to Woodstock to experience one of the biggest concerts of all time. and to get a jimmy hendrix's signature.

If Viet could be any superhero he would be Dragon Ball Z Character Goku. Goku is a saian from another planet that was sent to earth by his dad when Frieza destroyed the Saiyan's hometown. the Saiyans are a mighty force with strong powers like flying, strength, and shooting beams of energy. Goku's goal is to keep his new hometown, earth, safe.

A movie about his life would be named *Enter The Do* and Jet Lee would play him.

The best advice that Viet gives to other is, **"To be yourself and don't strive for meritocracy."**





Sam, Nhu and Ashley studying.



Nermina Demirovic studying.



Success in action.



Amber Bennett receives an award.

Success!! by Victoria Tran

Congratulations freshmen, you are 1/8th of the way done with your undergraduate career!

Congratulations sophomores, you successfully made it through 3 mid-terms' weeks and 2 finals' weeks; you can DOMINATE the next couple of midterms and finals!

Congratulations juniors, you completed more than HALF of your undergraduate career. The finish line is near.

Congratulations seniors, you are almost 7/8th of the way done with your undergraduate career! You only have 1 and a half more semesters, you can do!

Hear is a quick list of 10 study tips to survive the rest of your college career:

1. Study in **groups**. This allows you to learn things in new ways as well as get help.



Luis Vazquez, Bachelor's 2010

2. Study during the **daytime**; 1.5 hrs of night time studying = 1 hr of day time studying.
3. Study hard for **45 min.** and **take BREAK** to play facebook stalk or play facebook games.
4. When studying chemistry, biology, or anatomy **draw/ write it out** on a big whiteboard.

This may help you understand the concept better.

5. Ask **teachers** for help and get to know them. They are a great resource for recommendations.
6. Study for a test **before** you go to bed and review the information when you **wake up**.
7. Make **color coded flash** cards for vocabulary
8. Place **sticky notes** with facts all over your room. For example place a sticky note by your microwave so that when you are microwaving something you can read the sticky note.
9. Listen to **classical** music when studying.
10. Change notes into **questions** and self test.

Lovely, Still by Khloe Keeler

One of the greatest fears of aging is living in solitude. The film *Lovely, Still*, written and directed by my cousin Nik Fackler, deals with this fear. The independent film features Academy Award winners Martin Landau and Ellen Burstyn, as well as actors Adam Scott and Elizabeth Banks.

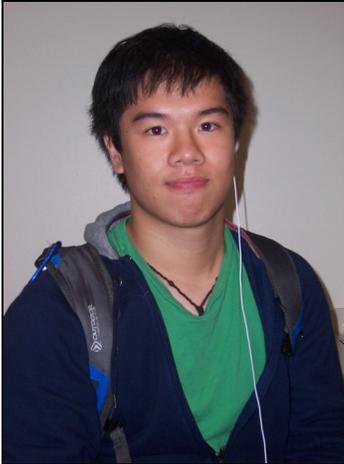
It is filmed in Omaha and includes music and art from Omaha's artists. Fackler wrote the film, which is his first of many future projects at age 16, capturing Landau as an old man who finds true

love for the first time, and adding a major twist towards the end.

During one of Fackler's Q&A's after a showing of his film, the audience was amazed at how well he was able to capture the elements of the storyline and the emotions behind it all at such a young age. Fackler made the point that from the moment we are born, we experience emotions such as love, whether from family members when we are five, to a spouse at age 55.

The film is shed in a different light than most and takes on a

Nicholas Sparks feel. It is doing very well as an independent film and is showing throughout the nation. It is the winner of many official selection awards, best actor awards, and the winner of best director as well. It is also on Oscar watch for the Academy Awards for best actor for this year. The film has been playing in two theaters in Omaha for about a month and will go on DVD near the end of November. To learn more about the film, visit www.lovelystillthemovie.com.



Peter Khong listening to music.

Peter Khong and Mock Trials *by Ingri Saravia*

Peter Khong was selected to participate in mock trials. Mock trials are a case presentation on an actual situation. There are three attorneys and three witnesses. The mock trials are set up by students in an actual courtroom. Mock Trial tournaments will be held in Cornell, Iowa, along with two in Kansas.

In order for Peter to be selected, he had to tryout. By

performing the role of an attorney and cross examine a witness. He was judged on organization, logic of reasoning, and public speaking skills. He was excited when he found out that he was selected.

During Peter's spare time, he likes to play soccer, practice the piano, and workout. Peter enjoys listening to music. He likes R & B, techno, trance, pop, and neo-classic. During

the summer he was a residential advisor for Upward Bound, a program for high school students who experience college life through classes, and live on campus.

His favorite teacher is **Fr. Harmless** because he taught him how to think critically, and he is highly grateful for that skill. Advice he offers freshmen is to manage their time.



Jessica Rangel.

What do you know about Halloween? *by Jared Good*

As you may all know, it is that time a year again where it is ok to wear goofy costumes, watch horror films, have spooky parties, and enjoy a couple fistfuls of candy. That is right ladies and gentleman it is **Halloween** once again, but how much do you really know about this wonderfully scary holiday? If you do not know much about Halloween, well prepare to be informed.

What you may not know is that Halloween is known by many different names such as; All Hallows Eve, Samhain, All Hallowtide, The feast of the dead, Haloween, All Saint's Eve, and El Dia De los Muertos (the day of the dead).

Halloween is holiday that has been dated back to over 2000 years ago as a Pagan tradition. The very act of wearing mask comes from Welsh and Celtic traditions that believe the dead come to visit the living on October 31st. People wore mask so the dead would not be able

to recognize the living. Early American settlers did not believe this, bur rather celebrated the end of the harvest season by wearing costumes, eating candy, and playing practical jokes. However, the practical jokes started to turn ugly in the 1930's, and in response a movement started to substitute practical jokes with kids going door to door asking for candy, hence the creation of trick-or-treating.

Halloween is a holiday that has its roots seeded in many different origins. For instance, the tradition of bobbing for apples first started with a Roman Harvest festival honoring Pamona, the goddess of fruit trees. Jack-O-Lanterns originated in Ireland as hollowed out turnips with candles placed in them to ward off evil ghost and spirits on the Samhain holiday. Black cats are given bad rap on Halloween, because they were once believed to be a witch's subordinate who protected their masters. However, in

England it is just the opposite. White cats are believed to be bad luck. The traditional colors of Halloween are orange and black; orange represents the harvest while black represents the darkness. There is an old tradition that says if you see a spider on Halloween then it's the spirit of a loved one watching over you.

Halloween is the second most commercially successful holiday, Christmas being the first. Halloween candy sales in America average out to 2 Billion dollars a year. Halloween is also the third biggest party day, right behind New Year's Eve and Super Bowl Sunday. 86% of American households decorate for Halloween, and in 2009 Halloween costume sales exceeded 6 Billion dollars; with adult costumes accounting for 62% of those sales. Now that you are more educated on some fun facts of Halloween, you can go out and impress your friends.



Audri Edmonds enjoys her food.



Victoria Tran.

World Food Day *by Victoria Tran*

A major crisis that our world is currently facing is global hunger. Currently there are 1.02 billion people who are hungry and “every day, almost 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes. That’s one child every five second.” It is our responsibility as human beings to ease the pain of our fellow man and end this crisis.

October 16, 2010 marked the 30th observance of World Food Day USA. “World Food Day (WFD) is a worldwide event designed to increase awareness, understanding and informed, year-around action to alleviate hunger. “ By increasing awareness of the thousands of people dying each day and understanding what can be done to solve this crisis; we can all take a bite out of the hunger crisis.

As college students, one may ask the question, **“What can I do?”** and the answer is, “A

lot.” Here is a list of 5 simple things you can do:

- 1) Write to Congress asking them to help strengthen child nutrition programs.
- 2) Go to www.freerice.com and play their games; for every right answer the website donates 10 grains of rice. They have games that allow you to practice your English, chemistry, math, geography, art skills, and a variety of languages.
- 3) Start up a food can drive amongst school clubs and donate the proceeds to the community food bank.
- 4) Help cook meals for the homeless at a local homeless shelter.
- 5) Simply by staying informed about world hunger and spreading the word, you are taking a step in the right direction.

Random facts

- 1) Over half of the people who are suffering from starvation are from Asia, the Pacific, and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- 2) An average person needs 2100 calories to live a healthy life.
- 3) Due to the economic crisis governments have allocated less funds for food assistance, families in poor countries receive less money from relatives abroad, and poor families take their children out of school or buy less nutritious food.
- 4) It takes just 25 US cents to fill a cup with essential nutrients for a child.
- 5) The G8, comprised of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, United Kingdom and the United States, has made a \$20 billion commitment to improve global food security.



Monica, Antwonette, Nhu, Ming and Jason.



Jessica helps her Gates student.

SSS Food drive *by Alicia Amedee*

Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 25th this year and break begins on the day before, Wednesday, November 24th. Many of you will be traveling back home to spend this holiday time with your families, and some will be staying in Omaha to celebrate as well. Where ever you may spend your break, there will still be people in Omaha that will not have much to eat for the holiday. There is something that can be done about this, and it begins with us as Creighton students.

Thanksgiving is a time for being thankful for all that we have been blessed with and will be blessed with. It is also a time of giving unto others who are in need. SSS will be holding our own Food Drive to give unto the **Sienna Francis House** so that someone else may have a good Thanksgiving and fill their bellies. The Sienna Francis House is a place where the homeless and near homeless in Omaha go for food and shelter. We can help them make other

people’s holiday better for this Thanksgiving. **Starting from now until November 19, 2010**, there will be a box in the SSS office for all non-perishable food items, such as canned goods, packaged items, and so forth. We are asking all who can to give at least 2 items, but give as much as your heart and checkbook is willing. This year we will be giving thanks for all that we have and someone else will be giving thanks for all we have given.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Monica Ibarra with her cousin, Pedro Perez.

Student Support Services

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**“Education is a companion
which no future can depress,
no crime can destroy, no
enemy can alienate it and no
nepotism can enslave.”**

Ropo Oguntimehin

SSS is one of the five federally funded TRIO programs at Creighton University under the Department of Educational Opportunity Programs. SSS is grant funded through the Department of Education to provide comprehensive services to help students achieve a successful college experience by increasing academic performance, retention, and graduation rates. SSS also works to foster an institutional climate supportive of the success of economically disadvantaged students, first generation students, and students with disabilities. The strength of the SSS program is providing comprehensive support to eligible students at Creighton University who have the ability and desire to succeed at Creighton University but would benefit from additional advocacy, academic, personal, financial, and career support. SSS is a resource that provides personalized and comprehensive support services for eligible participants to help them achieve their full potential.

Counselor's Corner *with Karen Thurber*

Thank you for doing midterm meetings!

If you have not completed your midterm meeting, please set an appointment with the right staff member or Sandy.

Please remember to sign the book at Sandy's desk to document the requirements you completed.

Emails will go out saying what requirements are done and what needs to be done. **Many have all five requirements done** and will receive emails on your status.

Remember to do workshops, schedule a counselor meeting, and attend one of the financial planning session.

The Financial literacy meeting will take approximately one hour to complete.

Please see Karen or Pat for the financial literacy workshop. The Financial Aid Office will be presenting different Financial Literacy workshops the second week of November. **These workshops can count as Financial Literacy requirements, just email me a summary.**

Remember to email copies of your resume to me.

Sleep, eat, the right foods and take time for yourself for tests and finals. See Denise to have your papers edited and for study skills suggestions. Keep up the good work of working with Rich and Pat with science and math. Stock the food pantry if you have extra food laying around your room.

Karen Thurber



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